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be very hard to the cultivators of *punja* lands in the taluk. The Member therefore requested that the remaining portion of the Thottappalli waste lands might be reserved for the grazing of cattle and for the supply of materials for the erection of bunds. He next said that, in the same way as the Thottappalli lock prevented the inrush of brackish water on the south, protection was necessary on the north. From Alleppey to Punnappra there were two or three small canals which should be blocked up by temporary bunds in the interests of cultivation. The other reliefs asked for by the Member were that remission of tax should be allowed when the crops failed on account of occasional drought or inundation and that an agricultural farm should be opened at Ampalapuzha to instruct the ryots in the improved methods of cultivation suited to *punja* lands.

Devan's reply.—Noted.

56. Necessity for the appointment of a Committee for regulating the dates of opening and closing the Kodayar Reservoir.

Mr. K. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Thovala taluk) said that the question of altering the date of opening the Kodayar Reservoir was one that had been brought forward at the last Assembly; but the Government decided that they saw no proper grounds for changing the date. The Reservoir was now being opened about the 15th Edavam. The ryots began their cultivation in the beginning of Medam, and under the existing arrangements, even with so much water in the Reservoir looming before their eyes, water would not be let out before the monsoon burst. Though the Reservoir might be opened on the 15th Edavam, the ryots lower down the channel got the water only 15 days subsequently, *i. e.*, by the close of Edavam, so that the Kodayar water and the monsoon flood really came together. He therefore requested that the date of opening might be put back by at least fifteen days and water let out by the 1st Edavam. He added that the Government should experience no difficulty, as the Reservoir would get full again with the heavy rains in Edavam and Mithunam. He concluded by saying that the ryots would be satisfied with the relief prayed for and that he would not press for a committee.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai (Member, Kalkulam taluk) observed that, though the question of altering the date of opening the Kodayar Reservoir was twice considered and decided by the Government, the fact that it was again being represented at the present session was clear proof that the ryots had a real grievance. He said that his object was not to press for an immediate change of the date. But, since the ryots of the four taluks of the division prejudicially affected by the existing arrangement believed that the Government were not aware of the real conditions of cultivation and the time when water was required in those taluks, he prayed that a careful enquiry might be caused to be made, either through a committee to be appointed for the purpose or through the Director of Agriculture, and if, after such investigation, it be found that the grievance was real, then the date of opening might be modified to suit the requirements.

He said that, in Nanjanad and Edanad, the cultivation began with the first rains, which would either be towards the close of Meenam or in the beginning of Medam. The ryots

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did not ask for Kodayar water for starting cultivation. After the cultivation was started, a process of heating would go on for a period, which might be taken to be 30 days in Nanjanad and 20 days in Edanad, the difference being due to the difference in the nature of the soil in the two localities; then what was called *vettivaippu* (transplanting) would be done in Edanad. It was at that stage of the cultivation that water was immediately required in both the localities; and if the monsoon got delayed, as not infrequently happened, and if Kodayar water would not also be allowed then, the crops would all wither away, as they could not stand the sun any longer. About 25 days after starting the cultivation water was therefore required, and, according to the above calculation, that stage would be reached by the 1st Edavam. The date on which the channels were now opened was about the 20th Edavam. The ryots could not possibly adjust their cultivation so as to finish the heating period by the above date; for, in that case, they would have to start cultivation about the 30th Medam, when there would be no rains, and secondly, even if they managed to start it then, it would delay the harvesting and infringe upon the Kanni cultivation to follow.

Mr. V. Krishna Iyer (Member, Trading Classes, Kottar) said that he agreed with the other Members and requested that the 1st Edavam should be fixed as the day on which the Reservoir was to be opened.

Dewan's reply.—I may tell you that the interests of the Government in this matter are not divergent from those of the ryots. But it is the duty of the Government to see that the maximum benefit possible is derived from the Kodayar Reservoir. What the Government are anxious about is that they should so regulate the opening of the channels that, if the south-west monsoon is delayed, say, till the end of June, you must not come to a full stop when you are in the middle of your cultivation and lose your whole crop. The thing is thus purely a question of arithmetical calculation. It is the duty of the Government to look ahead in such matters. If, therefore, you convince me that, in case the channels were opened on the 15th May, there is absolutely no danger of the whole machinery breaking down before the rains come in, then the thing is done. The fact however that the rains may not always come in on the 1st June *has* to be reckoned with and the arrangement to be made should be one that will stand even if there is absolutely no rain till the end of June. It requires practically two months for the Reservoir to fill. I wish it therefore to be clearly understood that this is not a question of your asking and my granting a concession. I have asked the Chief Engineer, Mr. Bastow, to collect statistics as to the quantity of water in the Reservoir at the different periods, and the quantity that would be consumed by irrigation, if there is absolutely no rain till the end of June. When those statistics are ready, we shall have a Conference with the Chief Engineer, the Chief Secretary, the Dewan Peishkars, the Director of Agriculture and the Members of South Travancore, and we shall then discuss the question in greater detail with the necessary data before us.

57. Agricultural requirements
of the Shencotta taluk.

Mr. S. Shadaksharasundaram Pillai (Member, Shencotta taluk) said that there was constant failure of crops in the